The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news, comment and effective interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1543 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 30, NO. 45

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Green Congratulates Roosevelt On Election Victory; President Hints He May Renew Labor Peace Drive; Lewis Repudiated, Must Now Resign or Face Dismissal

America's workers proved on Election Day that they were "intellectually capable" of answering John L. Lewis.

In his characteristically dictatorial way, Lewis said to the workers:—"Vote as I tell you to or I quit." The voters answered:—"We accept your resignation."

At this writing Lewis has not yet resigned. As soon as the returns started coming in he retired into the silences and he stayed there. But from now on it doesn't matter very much what Lewis says or does. He's through, washed up, finished once and for all, now and forever, as an important factor in the American labor movement.

What is going to happen next is anybody's guess. It may still be possible that Lewis will try to put in one of his stooges to succeed him as CIO boss and seek to continue to run the show from behind the scenes. But he can't get away with that. The boys and girls in the CIO, who had the courage to rebel against his dictatorship, have now tasted victory and they are not going to place their necks under his heel again. By this time they should be wise to Lewis' type of shenanigans and none of the old dodges will delude them. Unless Lewis gets out, they'll kick him out. And then, unless all signs fail, they will demand labor unity.

It's In the Cards

This is no idle or wishful or speculative prediction. It's in the cards. It can't be stopped and no one with a sincere devotion to the best interests of the American labor movement wants it stopped.

There are two reasons why we are so emphatic in our conclusions. The first is that the rank and file of workers in both the AFL and the CIO, as well as the American people generally, are sick and tired of being involved in a labor war that was wished on them by John L. Lewis and which served no other purpose than to promote his personal ambition.

Now that the CIO boys and girls have seen through Lewis' colossal conceit, they can't see him at all. They are weary of the fruitless and bitter battle that he has forced them to wage. If he tries again to stand in the way of their desire for unity, they will trample all over him. We remember the reception the delegates to the amalgamated Clothing Workers Union convention gave Lewis in New York last Spring. They stood up on their seats and chanted "We want peace, we want unity." If they felt that way then, how much more acutely must they and the representatives of other CIO unions feel now the need for labor peace.

The second reason for the inevitability of reunion—and perhaps an even more compelling one—is the growing recognition among all Americans that the one indispensable thing in our nation today is unity. National unity would be smashed forever without labor unity. Therefore, if we keep the right temper of the American people rightly and if we can read the clear mandate of the election, labor unity must come soon. In the face of a threat to our American democracy from the forces of evil abroad, all internal differences and quarrels must be composed.

Communists Faithful to Lewis

There are a few CIO union officials who may not want labor peace. Let us face this fact squarely. We refer to those CIO leaders who are Communists or under Communist influence. There is no point in going over the list here again. We've named them time and time again and by now the entire country knows who they are.

These Communist union leaders are the ones who have consistently backed Lewis in his refusal to consider peace with the United Mine Workers of America. They are also the only CIO leaders who backed Lewis in his boomerang blitzkrieg against President Roosevelt.

The Communist leaders in labor do not want labor peace. They do not want a strong, united American labor movement. They do not want a strong, united America.

On the contrary, their aim is to divide and weaken organized labor and to hamper and sabotage America's defense program. There is no room for such traitorous agents of Stalin in the American Federation of Labor. There is no room for them in America.

It is quite possible that Lewis may now attempt to split up the CIO just as he tried to break up the American Federation of Labor in 1935 by forming the CIO. If he does, he can rely on the support and following of Harry Bridges, of Joe Curran, of Mike Quill, of Morris Watson, of Ben Gold, of Harold Pritchett and other such warblers.

But we venture to predict that his own union, the United Mine Workers, will not go along. We may be sticking our neck out, but we venture to assert that the rank and file of the United Mine Workers are sick and fed up with Lewis and the CIO is generally. And if the votes of the miners in the national election are a true indication of their disgust with dictatorship, Lewis will be forced to resign next as president of the United Mine Workers.

Huge Unemployment Slash Recorded As Defense Production Expands

Washington, D. C.—The largest reduction in unemployment in any single month since April, 1936, took place last September, it was revealed in the official unemployment estimates of the American Federation of Labor. This decrease was 660,000. The unemployment total for the nation in September was 8,544,000, compared with 9,196,000 in August and 9,439,000 in September, 1939.

The conclusions of the unemployment survey follow:

"Employment gains in September were largely due to the stimulating effect on industry of defense program activities together with war orders and increased exports from abroad and the customary Fall business pick-up.

"Despite the great employment gains it is surprising that with so many favorable factors in progress in industry unemployment has not been even more extensive. The increased productivity of workers may be responsible for the fact that employment gains have not kept pace with production gains. In the six industries listed by the Department of Labor as those most directly concerned with defense aircraft and engines, shipbuilding, machine tools, aluminum manufactures and munitions—69,000 persons obtained new jobs from June to September 1940.

"The need for materials for defense industries, however, and the demand for goods due to reemployment and increased workers' purchasing power has brought about a general lifting of productive activity in the United States. This is shown by the fact that in industry and agriculture as a whole, comparing June to September 1940, 2,150,000 workers have been added to payrolls.

"Since September last year, nearly 1,500,000 persons have gone back to work in the United States. This gain in employment has offset the 600,000 increase in our working population and reduced unemployment by 900,000. This decrease is small compared to the large number still without work. The 1,500,000 employed still working on CCC, WPA and NYA programs ought to be absorbed into private industry.

"Workers' incomes in the United States are above last June by 3.6 per cent or $140,000,000 per month, and above September 1939 by 7.2 per cent or $273,000,000 per month. On an annual basis, workers' income today is at a level nearly $3,250,000,000 a year above September 1939. This accounts for the important increase in demand for consumers' goods in the nation's retail stores today."

A. F. OF L. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

	Gainful Workers	Number Employed	Number Unemployed
1940 Monthly			
January	53,764,156	43,186,113	10,656,043
February	53,810,999	43,218,369	10,592,630
March	53,859,265	43,457,957	10,401,308
April	53,907,531	43,679,295	10,228,244
May	53,953,795	43,978,795	9,977,000
June	54,003,174	44,458,547	9,544,627
July	54,051,647	44,504,366	9,547,281
August	54,098,000	44,964,000	9,134,000
September	54,143,000	45,601,000	8,544,000

AFL UNION IS CHOSEN BY RAILROAD EMPLOYES

Washington, D. C.—The National Mediation Board announced the certification of the Joint Council Dining Car Employes Local No. 594, Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance, A. F. of L. affiliate, to represent lounge car attendants employed by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company for collective bargaining purposes following an election held in accordance with the provisions of the Railway Labor Act. All of the employes eligible to vote cast their ballots for the Joint Council.

N. Y. RESTAURANT WORKERS GAIN PAY RISE CONTRACT

New York, N. Y.—Officials of Cafeteria Employes Local No. 302, A. F. L. affiliate, announced the acceptance by the 800 workers of the 24 hour, 6 day week, change Buffet restaurants of a new contract providing annual wage increases of about $146,000. The unification of further wage increases will be taken up with the company in 6 months. All the employes are members of the union. Since the restaurants were unionized in 1937 approximately $200,000 in annual wage increases has been granted to its employes.

F. D. R. Points Out Labor Unity Placards to Newspaper Reporters and Says "There's Your Story."

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt strongly indicated on the morning after election that unification of organized labor may be the first important domestic objective of his third term.

A significant clue to the trend of his mind was afforded by him at ceremonies incidental to the laying of the cornerstone of a new Post Office building at his native village of Hyde Park.

Workmen standing around the building carried placards reading: "When Lewis resigns, labor will prosper" and "Not Mr. Lewis but labor unity."

Noticing these signs, the President called them to the attention of newspapermen with him and remarked:

"There's your story."

This incident evoked widespread comment in the press. One press association reported that the President appeared "ready to hold Mr. Lewis to his pledge to retire" from the CIO.

Meanwhile, CIO officials started to bring pressure upon Lewis for his immediate resignation. William M. Leader, President of Branch 1 of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, wired Lewis:

"You stated in your radio speech that President Roosevelt would not be re-elected unless he had the overwhelming support of labor.

"Well, John, you have seen the results and it is you who have gone down to an ignominious defeat and not F. D. R.

"Labor has won its first great victory of 1940. Now give labor its second great victory by keeping your promise to resign as president of the C. I. O., so that at the coming conventions of the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. a real peace move can be inaugurated that will forever hold the gains of the past eight years.

"Good-bye now, John. What are you waiting for?"

Resolutions demanding the resignation of John L. Lewis as president of the CIO were adopted by the executive committee of the Washington Newspaper Guild.

The resolutions follow:

"Resolved that we urge the international executive board of the American Newspaper Guild to instruct the Guild's delegates to the convention of the CIO:

"1. To vote to accept the retirement of John L. Lewis from office in the CIO.

"2. If Lewis offers no such resignation or retirement, to demand that he do so as he publicly pledged he would do."

Dr. Millis Slated to Succeed Madden; House-Cleaning of NLRB Predicted

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt is expected to name a successor to J. Warren Madden as Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board within a short time, according to reports emanating from the White House immediately after the election.

The New York Times predicted that Dr. Harry A. Millis, of the University of Chicago, is slated to get the job. Dr. Millis has a long and brilliant record as an impartial labor dispute arbiter and served as a member of the original labor board created under NIRA.

If Dr. Millis accepts the appointment, the newspaper dispatches said, a general housecleaning of left-wing officials in the personnel of the National Labor Relations Board will begin at once.

The two present members of the Labor Board—Dr. William M. Leiserson and Edwin S. Smith—became almost total disagreement on administrative and legal issues and the lack of a third member to cast the deciding vote on important decisions has resulted in a virtual deadlock on NLRB affairs.

The New York Times said:

"When Dr. Madden left the NLRB Dr. Leiserson let it be known that he would request reassignment to his old post in the National Mediation Board if Mr. Madden was named for another term. Dr. Leiserson is expected to work with Dr. Millis in reorganization of the board."

It has also been frequently reported that the Roosevelt Administration has lost confidence in Board Member Edwin S. Smith and has unsuccessfully brought pressure on him to resign. His term of office expires next year and it is extremely unlikely that he will be reappointed.

At this time it appears just as unlikely that Mr. Madden will get a belated reappointment. According to published reports, John L. Lewis tried to force the President to reappoint Madden but Roosevelt refused.

If new appointments are made to the National Labor Relations Board resulting in a better and fairer administration of the board's affairs, such action may affect pending amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. No action on the amendments is expected at this dying session of Congress.

Pension Rights of Public Employes Will Be Guarded in Security Bill

Washington, D. C.—In a telegram to President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York expressed agreement with the principle of amending S. 4269 to assure "the complete protection of the existing pension rights of public employes."

The American Federation of Labor asked Senator Wagner last week to hold the bill in abeyance until conference can be held to determine the question of whether amendments are needed to safeguard pension plans of public employes.

The main objective of the bill, which was introduced by Senator Wagner in the Senate and Representative John W. McCormack in the House at the request of the American Federation of Labor, is to extend provisions of the Social Security Act to some 15,000,000 persons not now covered.

Senator Wagner's telegram to President Green follows:

"Thank you for your recent letter on S. 4269. The essential objective of the bill is, of course, to extend old age protection to the millions who do not now enjoy its benefits, including the 1,500,000 public employes throughout the country who are not covered by a pension plan of any kind, as well as those who move in or out of employment covered by such a plan.

"Nothing in S. 4269 is calculated to repeal or interfere with the independent status of existing pension systems covering teachers, firemen, policemen or other public employes to reduce the benefits hereunder or to turn over to the Federal Government the reserve funds of such systems. The bill, as you know, was introduced in its present form at the request of the American Federation of Labor and is based squarely on your traditional principle of extending pension protection to those not enjoying it and safeguarding pension protection where it exists.

"From my discussions and correspondence with teacher and other groups I find widespread agreement with the object of the legislation.

"You may be assured of my wholehearted cooperation in working out every affirmative safeguard to carry out the intent of the bill in protecting existing pension plans. I am therefore in complete agreement with the principle of any amendment along lines suggested in your letter and have so indicated to all who have written me."

President Green commented:

"This bill was introduced at the request of the American Federation of Labor in order to extend provisions for income in old age to groups for which provision had not previously been made. All groups are agreed upon the big objective, and I am sure will solve the technical problems involved. The American Federation of Labor wants to protect existing pension plans as well as to extend protection to those not yet covered."

SIGN ON LEWIS OFFICE "ACCEPTS" RESIGNATION

Washington, D. C.—The morning after election found a huge banner draped across the entrance of the national headquarters of the United Mine Workers, the building where John L. Lewis has his office. The sign, in large, sprawling black letters, read: "RESIGNATION ACCEPTED."

Washington newspapers reported that signs were also chalked up on the door windows reading: "Lewis, Phooey" and "Smarty—It's Lewis." They published huge photographs of the signs which gave the vacation's capital a good laugh over the discomfiture of the CIO chief (or has he resigned?).

LEWIS BLESSING "KISS OF DEATH"

His Political Stand Scorned By Own Members

Washington, D. C.—The labor vote was not "delivered," analysis of the election returns proves conclusively.

Working men and women turned a deaf ear to the blessings of John Lewis and they deserted the New Deal with him.

As in every other election contest in which he sought to influence the labor vote, Lewis' endorsement of the Republican Party proved to be the "kiss of death."

Political analysts agreed that the labor vote in the great industrial centers went overwhelmingly for Roosevelt and that it was a decisive factor in many pivotal states.

Members of the American Federation of Labor in some instances became more enthusiastic about the New Deal in inverse ratio to Lewis' hatred against it. Members of the CIO just simply turned Lewis down flat.

The repudiation of Lewis by the members of the CIO and by the members of his own union, the United Mine Workers, was so marked that it evoked caustic comment even in newspapers which hitherto had been friendly to Lewis. The Philadelphia Record said:

"John L. Lewis' 'walk' turned out to be a solitary stroll into the Valley of Shadows. The centers of greatest Roosevelt strength turned out to be the centers of C. I. O. strength, proof that Lewis could not take even a minute fraction of his own unions into the White House."

"The steel centers, the clothing manufacturing centers, the automobile centers, the community, the big coal mine districts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Illinois turned in their expected majorities for Roosevelt, without a trace of the Lewis influence for White."

AFL AGREEMENT SIGNED BY DISTILLERY COMPANY

Newark, N. J.—The Brown-Forman Distillery Company has signed a union shop contract with the American Federation of Distillery, Rectifying and Wine Workers' National Council, P. J. Dillon, national chairman of the Council announced.

In addition to providing for seniority rights, vacations and substantial wage increases, the contract provides for union shop condition of employment. The agreement, signed on October 1, 1940, was negotiated at a series of conferences participated in by executives of the company, representatives of the American Federation of Labor and the grievance committee of the Brown-Forman Distillery Workers' Local Union No. 23263.

The Brown-Forman Distillery Company also owns and operates the Early Times Distillery Company, Inc., in Kentucky, and the Old Kentucky Distillery.

MACHINISTS REPORT 221 MORE CONTRACTS

Washington, D. C.—The International Association of Machinists, A. F. of L. affiliate, signed 221 new and renewed agreements with employers during the last month, General Vice President D. W. Kurtzman reported. Firms covered were located in 55 cities in 19 States and Canada. Substantial wage increases, time and one-half for overtime and work performed on Saturday, Sunday and holidays, the eight-hour day, the 40-hour week, and seniority rights were secured for thousands of union members by the contracts.

MORE PENNSYLVANIA JOBS

Harrisburg, Pa.—Job placements by the Pennsylvania State Employment Service totaled 3,939 during the week ending October 18, bringing the number of jobs filled this year to 132,290 Secretary of Labor and Industry L. G. Hines announced.

AFL President Pledges Full Cooperation In Promoting National Unity, Preserving Peace and Strengthening Defense.

Washington, D. C.—American Federation of Labor officials hailed the triumphant re-election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and promptly pledged him full support in the interests of a united and unconquerable America.

President William Green said:

"An analysis of the election reports shows that the votes of labor proved to be the deciding factor in pivotal states.

"Working men and women voted for the re-election of the President because they believe he is their friend and the champion of social justice and economic freedom.

"I have wired Mr. Roosevelt congratulating him upon his re-election and extending my assurance of the full cooperation of those I represent in the promotion of national unity, in the preservation of peace and in the execution of the nation's preparedness program as speedily as possible."

Secretary-Treasurer George Meany declared:

"The re-election of President Roosevelt by a substantial majority is a demonstration of the American workers' faith in the political philosophy of the American Federation of Labor of rewarding labor's friends at the ballot box. I am convinced beyond question that the general membership of the American Federation of Labor is in line with this philosophy, contributed greatly to the splendid majorities registered for Mr. Roosevelt in the large industrial centers of the nation."

These expressions were echoed far and wide in labor circles throughout the nation, both AFL and CIO.

The result of the election was immediately interpreted by labor, by the press and by everyone else as, a complete and resounding repudiation of John L. Lewis.

Lewis, who predicted Roosevelt's ignominious defeat and promised to resign as head of the CIO if Roosevelt won, refused to make any public statement when the returns came in.

The consensus of opinion was that if he reneged on his resignation, the membership of the CIO, which refused to vote according to his orders, would force him out of control.

It was generally agreed that Lewis has now been so thoroughly discredited that he never again can aspire to leadership in the labor movement.

A statement was also reported in full swing among the miners of the country to get rid of Lewis as president of the United Mine Workers. The rank and file disgust with Lewis was registered by the miners at the polls. Mine districts in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the two largest coal-mining states, gave Roosevelt heavy majorities.

Speculation also arose as to the possibilities of achieving labor peace with Lewis out of the picture. It is now generally recognized that Lewis has been the chief stumbling block to bringing about a re-united labor movement in this country.

The Lewis debacle served to afford convincing proof to the nation's workers of the wisdom of the non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor and the folly of gambling with the future of a labor organization on the outcome of a political contest.

AFL Membership at All-Time Peak, Meany Discloses in "Federationist"

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor is now at its all-time membership high, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany reports in the November issue of the American Federationist.

The combined enrollment of all unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. on the basis of per capita tax payments, stands at 4,569,445. This figure is almost 50 per cent above the membership three years ago, when the total was 2,860,883.

The prodigious growth of the Federation is attributed by Mr. Meany to "common constructive, sound organizing work, based on the American philosophy which our organization has always exemplified."

Declaring that the American Federation of Labor has never been in a healthier condition than today, Mr. Meany adds:

"All signs point to a continued increase in strength in 1941 and beyond."

The effects of conscription and the national emergency on labor unions, with particular emphasis on the contracts negotiated under such conditions are discussed in an article by Joseph A. Padway, general counsel of the A. F. of L.

Foreseeing a sudden rise in the cost of living, Mr. Padway says:

"In times of emergency, when the real value of a dollar is more uncertain than ever, the need for flexibility is particularly desirable. . . . It is therefore inadvisable for unions to fix wage schedules in their contracts for long periods of time."

Mr. Padway strongly advises unions currently negotiating new agreements with employers to insist upon the insertion of an "escape clause" giving the union the right to reopen the wage question in the event "living expenses substantially rise."

In another article so-called merit rating plans for the payment of unemployment insurance taxes by employers are vigorously assailed. Adoption of such plans, the article says, would "stabilize employment at minimum levels."

WPA WORK FOR 1,778,600

Washington, D. C.—Acting Commissioner of Work Projects Howard O. Hunter announced total employment on WPA projects during the week ending Nov. 2 was 1,778,600. This is 3,100 more than were employed during the previous week and 79,600 less than the authorized employment.

BIG ST. LOUIS VICTORY WON BY BUILDING TRADES

St. Louis, Mo.—One hundred and twenty non-union contractors have signed contracts with the building trades unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor following a strike of 15,000 building trades workers. All construction work in the St. Louis area was brought under the union banner by the new agreement. The strike was ordered after a clash between A. F. of L. pickets and strike-breakers at a housing project during which one picket was killed and four other union members wounded by gunfire.

GALVESTON SHIPYARD MEN WIN $100,000 PAY BOOST

Galveston, Texas.—Officials of American Federation of Labor unions concluded negotiations with the management of the Galveston-Todd Dry Docks, Inc., carrying wage increases of over 1200 workers. Rates for mechanics were increased five cents an hour and those of helpers, apprentices and laborers three cents. Sam N. Davis, assistant international president of the Boilermakers, and S. W. Doerner, grand lodge representative of the Machinists, who directed the collective bargaining conference, estimated that the annual payroll of the company will be enlarged more than $100,000 a year by the higher wage rates.

COMPANY UNION DISSOLVED

Asheville, N. C.—After a full hearing on the charges filed by the local A. F. of L. union that the so-called "factory committee" set up 11 years ago by the American-Enka Corporation, rayon manufacturers, was a company union, the National Labor Relations Board sustained the charge and ordered the "factory committee" dissolved.